

## The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVEN'G, JANUARY 2.

The President's proclamation will be approved of by all the ultra Republican papers at the North, and disapproved of, or not approved of cordially, by the Conservative and Democratic papers.

It is reported that in the recent raid of Stuart's Cavalry, a large number of "contrabands" engaged in felling timber in the neighborhood of Vienna, in Fairfax County, were captured.

A public meeting is to be held at Liberty Hall, in this place, to-morrow at noon, when it is expected that candidates for Congress will speak.

President Lincoln's Levee, yesterday, was attended by a large concourse of citizens—including many officers of the army and navy.

The article in yesterday's Gazette headed Foreign Intervention, on the third page, should have been credited to the Baltimore American.

The Empress Eugenie, of France, is said to be the most extravagant woman in the world; and that her extravagance is a bad example to the French people.

The Dubuque (Iowa) Republican, says, that for itself, it goes for "a vigorous prosecution of peace."

Alexandria county is not excepted, in President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

The weather continues to be very fine for this season of the year.

The Congress of the U. S. is to commence its session again, on Tuesday next.

A man dressed in soldier's clothes, seized a box of herring, this morning, at the store of Messrs. Davy & Harmon, and made off with it. He was pursued and the box taken from him; but before the guard came up, he made his escape.

A correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune says that "the French Government has decided to act alone in the matter of mediation, and to offer to the President of the U. S. the same proposition which has been made to England and Russia, trusting to his judgment to pronounce upon its merits and its practicability. That document will be accompanied by a letter from Drouyn de l'Huys, stating, in substance, that the Emperor believes the proposition of an armistice an act in no way injurious to the interests and honor of the United States, but, on the contrary, eminently useful; and that it is not his intention to press it upon the Federal Government, which alone can determine the time when the friendly office of France may be accepted."

A letter from New York says:—"The arrival of Gen. Butler is looked for on Saturday next, by the North Star, at this port. His friends are confident that he will be offered a place in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet, and some of them go so far as to say that it was with a view of having the benefit of his administrative abilities there that General Banks was sent out to supersede him." Gen. Butler has arrived in New York.

## STUART'S LATE RAID.

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.]

Stuart and Fitzhugh Lee, conversant with all the neighboring country, from a long residence—Lee having lived on Arlington Heights—drove in a battalion of the First Michigan Cavalry, near Wolf Run Shoals, and would have advanced to that point but found the Twenty-eighth and other Pennsylvania regiments in line of battle, having been prepared by the information sent back. They then approached the encampment of Geary's Division, but found his reserve ready for them. Similar disappointments met them at Fairfax Station, Fairfax Court House and Chantilly.

They took the road to Annandale and Burks Station, at which latter place they cut the telegraph wire, tore up the railroad track, captured about fifty teams and empty wagons, and a few citizens. From thence they proceeded on the road from near Annandale to Vienna and from there toward Gum Spring between Fairfax C. H., and Drainesville, passing between the forces in front of Washington and Fairfax C. H. Rumors afterwards reported them as going to Leesburg.

It is a matter of speculation that the large body of cavalry in front of Washington could not drive the enemy southward, where they would have fallen into the hands of General Geary's command, fully prepared to receive them, and which, being without cavalry, could not pursue. All the troops northward were apprised of the opportunity, and the whole line put on the alert.

On Monday night General Geary's Division, with the exception of the reinforcements left at Dumfries, returned to Wolf Run Shoals, and at Tuesday noon reached camp, near Fairfax.

Dumfries was almost battered down by the immense number of shells thrown in it.

Gen. Butler arrived at New York yesterday in the steamship S. R. Spaulding from New Orleans. Previous to leaving New Orleans, he issued an address to the citizens in which he said he had the "proud consciousness of carrying with him the blessings of the humble and loyal from every cottage roof, and from the cabin of the slave. He was quite content to have incurred the sneers and curses of the rich." In conclusion, he declares his conviction that the existence of slavery is incompatible with the security of the nation. Gen. Banks had issued an order appended to which was the President's Proclamation of Emancipation, and directing its enforcement.

Already the proposals of the N. Y. Associated Press for 300,000 pounds of printing paper have been answered by parties offering to supply at a large reduction from the rates imposed by the extortionate organization.

A prominent surgeon who went on from Albany to render services to the wounded in the Fredericksburg battle, writes home that the army is about to make an important movement, the character of which he is not at liberty to mention.

One jeweler in New York sold \$90,000 worth of Christmas presents. Money has been spent this year at the North with a perfect looseness.

It is stated, on authority, that the government has eighteen steamers at sea cruising in search of the Confederate steamer Alabama.

## FROM KEY WEST.

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.]

KEY WEST, Fla., Dec. 23.—The Ninetieth New York is to be presented by the negroes of this island, before leaving Key West, with a beautiful flag. This may seem queer for this locality, but it is nevertheless a fact.

The political excitement here is at rather low ebb. Two weeks since there was a general election held for Mayor and other city officers. The highest vote cast, out of a population of more than four thousand, was eighty-four, and this was all of the votes polled.

As I write there is considerable consternation in town, occasioned by a flying rumor that the Alabama is in the Gulf near this place. Reports to that effect have been brought in by fishing smacks. I have been unable, however, to trace them to any reliable or authentic source.

The "contraband negroes," at one of their locations in Washington, had a jubilee, yesterday, in consequence of President Lincoln's Proclamation.

The cotton famine prevails, with increasing severity, in France. In that country it is estimated that nearly 6,000,000 cotton spinning spindles were in use before the supply of raw material ceased, as against 30,750,000 spindles in Great Britain. The number of persons depending upon this manufacture in all France is about half a million.

There is an easy way to get rid of clinkers in a stove: It is this:—When a charge of coal has been burned down pretty well, and is all aglow, throw in half a dozen oyster shells and fill up with coal, and let it burn very hot, and you find the clinkers all in a semi-fluid state, plastic and adhesive as sticky dough, and about as easily punched off with a poker.

General Banks, in his interpretation and objects and effect of the President's Proclamation, tells the people of Louisiana that "it is manifest that the changes suggested by the proclamation do not take place at any precise period." He advises the slaves to remain on the plantations until their privileges are definitely established, and, finally, declares, that "the war is not waged for the overthrow of slavery; but to restore Constitutional relations between the United States and each of the States."

The Jamaica (L. I.) Farmer states that at the Democratic banquet in that city a few evenings since, at which some magnates of that party spoke, one of the guests proposed the health of "General Lee, Commander-in-Chief of the Confederate Army." No notice, either by way of approval or condemnation, was taken of the sentiment.

There are now on hand at the United States Armory at Springfield from thirty thousand to forty thousand new rifles, all packed and ready for shipment. This is the first time since the war broke out that there has been a supply ahead of the demand. The armory now turns out about a thousand rifles a day.

The New York Commercial says the dry goods market of that city is very quiet. The jobbing trade has been very large and successful, and jobbers never made so much money before. An army of them retire from business with large fortunes on the 1st of January.

During the month of November 12,000 bales of rags were shipped from England for the United States.